Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02901 231905Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 HA-05
/120 W
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R 231823Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6367
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, 34TH SESSION: AGENDA ITEM 11, FURTHER PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INFORMAL WORKING GROUP

1. AT THE TWO SESSIONS HELD TO DATE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ITEM 11, THERE HAVE EMERGED TWO GENERAL THEMES; (1) THAT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE COMMISSION TO CONDUCT THE OVERALL ANALYSIS CALLED FOR IN RESOLUTION 32/130 AND THAT THE TASK SHOULD PROBABLY BE COMMENCED AT A SPECIAL SESSION, OR OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE HRC HELD EITHER BEFORE THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR PRIOR TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. (2) THERE ARE SOME ACTIONS WHICH THE COMMISSION CAN TAKE NOW AND WHICH DO NOT HAVE TO AWAIT THE OVERALL ANALYSIS. THE INDIAN PROPOSAL FALLS IN THIS CATEGORY. IN ADDITION, PROPOSALS FOR INCREASING THE LENGTH OF THE SESSIONS, OR HOLDING TWO ANNUAL SESSIONS, AND DEVISING AN INTER-SESSIONAL ROLE FOR THE BUREAU COULD FIND EARLY ACCEPTANCE.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON THE PRE-
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02901 231905Z

FERRED MECHANISM FOR CONDUCTING THE OVERALL ANALYSIS. AT A RECENT WEO MEETING, THE U.K. DELEGATION CIRCULATED A PARTIAL DRAFT PROPOSAL CALLING FOR HOLDING OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PRIOR TO THE GA TO BEGIN WORK ON THE OVERALL ANALYSIS. WE SUPPORT THIS APPROACH, AS WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT THIS WORK BE CONDUCTED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

HRC. RES. 32/130 CALLS FOR A PRELIMINARY REPORT TO THE GA, AND WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THE MEETING SHOULD BE HELD PRIOR TO THE GA. THE EASTERN BLOC, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS SPOKEN IN FAVOR OF A ONE WEEK, OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE HRC, TO MEET ABOUT A WEEK PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HRC. WE WERE INFORMED BY THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION THAT THEY CAN ACCEPT A MEETING WHICH IS TERMED A "WORKING GROUP" BUT ARE UNABLE TO GO ALONG WITH ANYTHING CALLED A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HRC. THE EASTERN GROUP APPARENTLY WANTS TO AVOID SETTING A PRECEDENT FOR TWO YEARLY SESSIONS. WE ALSO SUSPECT THAT THE EASTERN GROUP WISHES TO AVOID HAVING THE WORKING GROUP CONVENED PRIOR TO THE NEXT GA BECAUSE THEY WISH TO BE ASSURED THAT NO ACTION CAN BE TAKEN TO REFER THE HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL TO THE GA THIS YEAR.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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20 Mar 2014
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